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PENN KEMP

Middle March and Beyond

Last day of winter and snow recedes slowly as creatures emerge tentatively to feed. We are all immersed, immured, enveloped in this strange in-between time, ice melting to air. Transition ritual: old kings must die.

So we are told. Be gone, cold. Welcome, fluctuating circumstance. Holding our breath, hanging as elements change their nature, we women wait patiently, impatiently, accepting, rejecting conditions that no longer serve us.

Hoping against hope, whatever that means for a future few sure will be any longer golden or even green, given climate change, given stupidity on all levels of governance, internal, external. We await the chance to

vote, elections upcoming, change essential but arbitrary. We fear the tricks of power determined to stay in place, in control no matter how wild the swirl of oceans gone beyond all known bounds predicated on

past possibility or predicted by those whose voices are silenced by the powers that be: that be sly, short-sighted, power-mad and roiling to keep a lid on that boiling crock—those melting glaciers, the rising sea levels.

Activist poet/playwright Penn Kemp is London's inaugural Poet Laureate, with twenty-six books of poetry/drama and ten CDs. As Western's Writer-in-Residence, she produced Luminous Entrance: Sound Opera for Climate Change Action (DVD). She hosts Gathering Voices, Radio Western. Quattro Books published Jack Layton: Art in Action, which she edited.